



In 1979, the Veterans Administration began its Vet Center program, designed specifically to treat veterans and their families for trauma-related difficulties. Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide a broad range of services to assist in readjusting to civilian life.

For more information: <http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>

Eligibility

Vet centers serve warzone veterans from the following periods of hostility. Service must be verified by DD214.

- **Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF- Iraq Theater), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF- Afghanistan Theater)**
- **Global War on Terrorism**
- **Operation Joint Endeavor, Joint Guard, Joint Forge** (Former Yugoslavia: Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia)
- **Somalia:** 09/17/1992 to TBA
- **Persian Gulf:** 08/02/1990 to TBA
- **Panama:** 12/20/1989 to 01/31/1990
- **Grenada:** 10/23/1983 to 11/21/1983
- **Lebanon:** 08/25/1982 to 02/26/1984
- **Vietnam War:** 02/28/1961 to 05/07/1975
- **Vietnam Era Veterans (Not in War zone):** eligible if seen prior to 01/01/2004
- **Korean War:** 06/27/1950 to 07/27/1954
- **World War II:** 12/07/1941 to 03/02/1946
- **American Merchant Marine:** In ocean-going service, 12/07/1941 to 08/15/1945

Vet Centers also serve:

- **Sexual Trauma/ Harassment Victims:** Veterans of any era who has experiences any form of military sexual trauma or harassment. Veteran does not have to serve in a war zone.
- **Family Members of any veteran listed above**

Services

- Individual counseling
- Group counseling
- Marital and family counseling
- Bereavement counseling
- Medical referrals
- Assistance in applying for VA Benefits/ services
- Employment counseling, guidance and referral
- Alcohol/Drug assessments
- Information and referral to community resources
- Sexual trauma counseling & referral
- Community education

Additional Information

- All services are provided at no cost to the veteran and their family.
- Veterans do not need to be enrolled with the Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Centers to use the Vet Center.
- Veterans do not need a disability rating or service connection for injuries from either the Department of Veteran Affairs or the Department of Defense, to use the Vet Center.
- No information will be released to any person or agency without written consent from the client, except in circumstances averting a crisis.
- Seeking mental health services because of adjustments from service in a military combat environment will not affect security clearances or government and military employment. (Revised SF86 Office of Management and Budget Approval Number 3206-0005).